

Minutes /Notes

WHNA Meeting (via Zoom)

Sunday, September 13, 2020 - 6PM

Members Present: Dave, Curtis, Tammy, Elizabeth, Andrea, Becky

Members Absent: Buck, Brad

There was a quorum.

Guest Speaker Jamie Fitzgerald, Polk County Auditor and Commissioner of Elections

Jamie reviewed information from the June Primary Election and talked about States that do mail-in voting and discussed the upcoming Tuesday, November 3rd General Election activities. There is confusion with voters receiving several Absentee Ballot Request Forms and if all are legitimate. They are and you only need to fill out one form to request a ballot. For those that plan to go to their polling location on election day, they will need an i.d. (drivers license). There are 300,000 registered voters and there have been 92,000 requests for an absentee ballot to date. We will have more polling sites open for the General than we did for the Primary Election in June, although some locations will have to be combined. We will have a drop box for those that want to hand deliver their absentee ballot. Voting rights have been restored to felons, but that still does not mean all felons can vote right away. Those on probation or parole will not be able to vote. The ballot for the election will have the same information for everyone to vote. The layout will be different with odd-numbered counties having Republicans listed first on the ballot and even-numbered counties having Democrats listed first. There will be no satellite voting this year due to COVID. The senior centers and libraries are closed. If we are petitioned to have satellite sites, we will. There are three ways to vote: (1) vote from home with an absentee ballot, (2) vote early at the Polk County Election Office October 5 thru November 2 and (3) vote at your precinct on Election Day November 3rd. The first day ballots will be mailed out to voters is October 5th and approximately 110,000 ballots will be sent to voters that day. Any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Jamie at the Polk County Election Office, 286-3247.

Josh Raleigh, DSM Neighborhood Inspection Division:

Josh gave an update on blighted homes in the area. Send him a text/e-mail if you have any concerns or information about vacant houses. Mowing and snow removal at vacant houses are done by Polk County Public Works (mowing) and DSM Sidewalk Department (snow removal). Properties at 211 & 325 Leach are in the court system. After an order is given, it will go out for bids, then removed.

Josh also talked about the brush clean-up from the Derecho storm, be patient. Debris will be picked up eventually. Also, large items need to have stickers on them to be picked up, they are back to normal on that now.

Joel Van Roekel, DSM Parks and Rec:

There is not a lot going on now. DSM offices are closed until December 1st. No activities book will be published, you can find information on the website. Clean up from the storm is still on-going in the parks. Parks are still functioning; shelters can be rented.

3rd Annual Holiday Lighting Contest will still be held, same level as last year.

DSM Security Camera Program:

We approved an expenditure of \$200 for this program. We will offer 8 - \$25 incentives for those that have a system and can verify it is registered with DMPD. If successful, there could be an opportunity for outside funding of the program.

Update on cul-de-sac concert:

We have applied for a sound permit from City of DSM, takes 7-10 days for approval and a \$40 fee.

Brazilian Twins are a go if we are approved, they will send us flyers to use to promote event.

Food truck wanted \$150 to reserve/guarantee, we cannot do that.

We will get t-shirts for the board that we can have for this event and future events. These are \$5 a shirt.

Send your size to Andrea. Moved by Andrea, Seconded by Elizabeth to spend \$40 on eight shirts.

Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 7:25 p.m.